Scheme to all districts of the country will also contribute to increase in consumption demand and, henee, growth of the economy. Steps are being taken to improve credit availability to the priority sectors of the economy. At the same time, the Government has increased its allocation for infrastructure programmes like National Highway Development Project, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, as well as on education, health, and training and skill upgradation that will help in addressing some of the supply side constraints on sustaining the high growth rate and in improving the level of productivity of the economy.

The Government has undertaken a number of steps to check inflation. This includes maintaining strict fiscal discipline, rationalisation of excise and import duties on essential commodities, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies and procurement by public agencies. The Reserve Bank of India, through appropriate monetary policy measures complements Government's efforts to check inflation.

Recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission

2390. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if not, by when Government proposes to take a decision in the matter;

(c) whether the Defence Force have made any grievance before Government regarding the recommendations;

(d) whether Government has powers to modify the recommendations of the Commission in their applicaton;

(e) whether Government proposes to give financial assistance to the smaller States proposing to adopt the recommendations for the employees of the State Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (e) above.

Reduction in customs duty of edible oils

2391. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs duty on certain commodities like edible oil has been reduced during the last one year to check rising trend of prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their impact on the prices of such commodities at the retail level during the same period, commodity-wise;